

**ABSTRACT**

Methods and compositions are provided for extracting DNA from tissues, hair, teeth, bone, plant material, solid matrices and other samples from which DNA extraction is generally regarded as being difficult. DNA may quickly be extracted from samples, for example, in just 5 minutes to 2 hours, without enzymatic digestion or the use of toxic organic chemicals such as phenol, chloroform, guanidine thiocyanate or 2-mercaptoethanol.